

NEW POSTAL FRAUDS.

Queer Facts and Figures About Mr. Wamamaker's Department.

LATEST TRICKS OF SHARPPERS.

The Green Goods Business Grows and Thieving Increases.

RUIN FROM THE FOUR-POUND PACKAGE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—If the "missing word" puzzle, which has become such a craze in England, strikes this country, the Postoffice Department will promptly shut it out of the mails. Such guessing contests would be excluded on the same ground as any other speculation in chances, so that this new form of gambling is not likely to be successfully introduced on this side of the water. The Louisiana Lottery is still active, but its tickets and literature are transmitted exclusively by express, being sold in various states and cities. This the Government does not care to interfere with, so long as the swindlers do not attempt to employ Uncle Sam's post for their purposes. The Postmaster General has finally forbidden the certification of money orders and registered letters from this country to William Lord Moore, of London. This man has for many years pursued very profitably the business of a "claim agent" for supposed American heirs to properties in England. The postoffice authorities feel no little anxiety over the rapid increase in the number of robberies of post-offices. During the last fiscal year more than eleven hundred postoffices were pillaged by burglars.

Mail Robbing Is Growing.

When it is considered that during the previous twelve months only 865 postoffices were robbed in this country, it is seen how fast this form of crime is growing. Notwithstanding the long terms of imprisonment prescribed by law for highway robbery, 49 staves carrying the mails were held up and the contents of the mailbags pilfered during the last fiscal year. The most reckless and dangerous desperadoes attempt this kind of exploit, and for the capture of such criminals a standing reward is offered. During the same twelve months 345 mail pouches were found to be pilfered of the post is done by postal employees, 231 of whom were arrested for such offenses.

At Christmas-time money is sent through the mails in all sorts of queer ways.

Bills are concealed in gloves, and mittens knitted by elderly female relatives. Sums in cash are inclosed in boxes of candy and wrapped up with merchandise of all kinds. Coins are inserted in pieces of postcard. In Europe, where they are being sent that way, because over there it is against the law to transport anything made of gold or silver by post. Bank notes are sometimes rolled up like lampbrushes and laid in the folds of the clothing.

Shieving Employees Become Expert.

This is an excellent way to manage where bills must be sent in an envelope, because their presence cannot easily be distinguished by feeling or smelling. Thieving employees in postoffices sometimes attain such expertise that they can readily detect either an old or a new bank-note in a sealed letter by smell. One clerk who was caught in such deceptions a while ago satisfied the curiosity of the detectives who captured him by showing them without a mistake, though blindfolded, the mistakes containing bills out of 400.

The Fourth Assistant Postmaster General in his report issued a few days ago states that the Department is making no distinction against the most important of all frauds which are conducted through the mail—namely, the "green goods" business. In fact, this nefarious industry seems to be growing rapidly.

A MERCANTILE SENSATION.

Retail Grocers Taking a Hand in the Combine Business.

There has for some time been a breach between the wholesale and retail grocers in this city, which has, by what the retailers call arbitrary action upon the part of the wholesalers, become so widened that a reconciliation is now seems impossible. The retailers by the retail men, the wholesale grocers have been selling goods to restaurants, hotel and boarding house keepers in job lots at little over wholesale prices, thus cutting the retailers out of the market of this class of trade to which they claim they are entitled. The retailers allege also that the wholesalers are combining to control prices in their own favor, and that they are selling goods at a profit, owing to the fact that the wholesalers are ordinarily sold at small profits, in order to force the retailers to make a market for their goods, and to buy from them.

Hard on Country Merchants.

The provision of law which allows four-pound packages to go by mail is a cause of much complaint. The system causes waiting and gnashing of teeth among shopkeepers in smaller towns, who are being ruined by it. Suppose, for example, that a woman living in a community of a few hundred or a few thousand inhabitants wants to buy a dress for Christmas. Instead of purchasing it in the nearest city, she is obliged to go to a great dry goods firm in the nearest large city and procure samples. Having selected the stuff she wants, she sends on a money order for the price and gets in return the material at a considerable profit to the huge metropolitan emporium fattens at the expense of the provincial merchants. In return for the taking away of a great part of their business by Uncle Sam, the express companies are making a fortune. In recent years become important rivals of the Government in the transmitting of money. Their rates are much less than those charged by the Postoffice Department or sums exceeding \$10 and it is precisely for this reason that the Department contemplates a reduction of about one-third in its prices for money orders about \$15. At this season of the year the outflow of cash from the United States to foreign countries by postal money orders is enormous. Irish-Americans particularly send great sums just before Christmas to their relatives in the Green Isle. About \$3,000,000 goes to Ireland annually from the United States in the shape of money orders.

Millions for Europe's Paupers.

Striking a balance between the \$3,000,000 received in foreign money orders by this country yearly and the \$13,000,000 sent across the water, it appears that we contribute nearly \$10,000,000 a month to the support of pauperism in Europe. To the 20 years old and over are sometimes offered to the Postoffice Department for payment. Of course, they are not valid after the lapse of one year, but duplicates are always issued in such cases.

Frightened Her Sister.

Annie Edmondson, about 20 years old, whose home is on Duquesne Heights, fell in an epileptic fit last night at the corner of Fifth avenue and Smithfield street. The occurrence, with the hysterical cries of her sister who accompanied her, created quite a sensation. Both girls were taken to the Duquesne Pharmacy, where the sister cried at an alarming rate, saying Annie would surely die. In half an hour the efforts of several gentlemen rescued the girl to her normal condition and she went home.

A DETECTIVE IN TROUBLE.

Miss Sweetheart Sues Him for Assault and Battery and Pointing Firearms.

G. D. Hammond, a detective employed by the Merchants' Detective Agency, of Pittsburgh, who was arrested in Allegheny on Saturday night for raising a disturbance at No. 20 Montgomery avenue, was given a partial hearing before Police Magistrate Brinker yesterday morning. The disturbance, in whose house the disturbance took place, has in his employ Miss Carrie Thompson as a domestic, and Hammond has been paying her considerable attention of late. On Saturday night he called upon her shortly after 7 o'clock, while she was at work in the kitchen. He was considerably under the influence of liquor, and following the girl into the hallway insisted that she should quit work and go down street with him. She declined to accompany him, and he, becoming angry, caught her around the neck, and pointing a revolver in her face said she should not get out of the house as he desired. The girl was badly frightened and screamed for help.

Dr. Talmage Draws Some Lessons From the Holiday Season.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS BIRTHDAY.

Each Day a Good or Great Man Is Born to the World, but None Like Christ.

REFLECTION AND JOY SHOULD BEIGN

BROOKLYN, Dec. 25.—The sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Talmage this morning was of a character especially appropriate to the holiday season, and was listened to with rapt attention by an audience that crowded the Tabernacle. Before beginning his discourse the preacher gave out the opening hymn:

Joy to the world, the Lord has come, Let earth receive her King.

The text selected was Colossians ii, 16: "In respect of a holy-day."

"What the Bible here and elsewhere calls a holy-day, we by change of one letter and change of pronunciation, call holiday."

I am glad that this season we celebrate the birth of the greatest being that ever walked the earth; the other celebrates the birth of that which is to be one of the greatest years of our life this holiday season, the two Sabbaths of the holiday season, and the six days between into three chapters. The first part of a chapter of illustrious birthdays, the second part a chapter of annual decadence, the third part a chapter of chronological introduction.

Christ's Birth the Greatest.

First, then, a chapter of illustrious birthday. Not a day of any year but has been marked by the nativity of some good or great soul. The second part of a chapter of annual decadence, the third part a chapter of chronological introduction. Christ's Birth the Greatest. First, then, a chapter of illustrious birthday. Not a day of any year but has been marked by the nativity of some good or great soul. The second part of a chapter of annual decadence, the third part a chapter of chronological introduction.

The Island of St. Paul.

Nobody will grudge France her latest acquisitions in the Indian Ocean. St. Paul, one of the two islands on which the French flag floats, is volcanic in origin, about 20 miles long, and "comparatively bare." Not Amsterdam lies 50 miles further to the north. It is densely vegetated, and consequently more valuable, but is also small in size. It was at New Amsterdam that H. M. Magi and his crew were kept for 11 weeks.

A Robert Elmsere in London.

A "powerful appeal" on behalf of the settlement in Gordon square, "University Hall," which is an attempt to realize the dream of Robert Elmsere, has been written by Mrs. Humphrey Ward, and it is to be issued as a supplement to the leading Unitarian weekly newspaper of London. The "Robert Elmsere" idea does not appear to be thriving in London.

THE CHILTERN HUNDREDS.

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And so I expect that 1893 will be a greater year than that of 1892. It will be a year of its own kind. Its obscurity will be its greatness. Its obscurity will be its greatness. Its obscurity will be its greatness.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

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The significance of the Lord's Birth and the Regeneration of Man.

THE BLESSING OF CHRIST.

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Something Substantial and Not a Passing Breeze of Emotion.

Tied Up for an Hour.

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Two accidents on the Citizens' Traction line last night delayed travel over an hour.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

Floral Decorations and Sweet Harmonies Draw Crowds to Hear THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.

Special Arrangements Made to Attract the Younger Members.

CHURCH CHOIRS LARGELY AUGMENTED

The church bells rang out merrily on the wintry air yesterday morning and welcomed the people to the Christmas services. Their pealing was a little louder and their chiming a little livelier, than was their wont. It was a day for special thanksgiving and most fittingly did the various churches of the two cities observe the most sacred day in the Christian calendar.

A Festival Service.

A Sunday school Christmas festival service was held at the St. James Episcopal Church, Penn avenue, last evening.

Services at the Jail.

NEWS FOR WHEELMEN.

An Important Convention to Be Held at Philadelphia Next February.

The League of American Wheelmen will hold a constitutional convention at Philadelphia on February 20, when some material change will be made in the constitution and rules of the league.

The National Cycle Union of England are contemplating adopting like measures in regard to their amateur definition.

The wheelmen of the South intend making a determined fight at the coming convention of the L. A. W. against the admission of colored riders.

THE FLY-BROWN MUSHROOM.

Peculiar Intoxicating Effect of a Species in the Northeastern Part of Asia.

The inhabitants of northeastern parts of Asia use a mushroom to promote intoxication. It is known as the fly-brown mushroom, and also is very abundant in Scotland. The fungus is gathered in the hottest part of the year, and is then hung dry before being gathered. The effect is stated to be far more narcotic than those artificially preserved.

Use of Expanded Metal.

Architects and builders in New York, Chicago and other large cities are now using in important buildings the expanded metal lathing which was first announced from Pittsburgh a few years ago.

STOP THIEF.

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Drypiped stealing the roses from many ladies' cheeks, and making many men's faces blanch.

BEECHAM'S PILLS.

Will arrest the action of the bowels, and restore health.

JAPANESE FILE CURE.

A cure for Piles, External, Internal, Blind, Bleeding and Itching. Chronic Hemorrhoids. This remedy has positively never been known to fail.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM HAIR LOSS?

are better kept and drunkenness turns to sobriety, and frank and unadmission quiet the land.

The Clock Won't Stop.

"Stop, oh, clock! in the tower of the great United States Capitol." "No, no," says the clock, "I have been going on so long I cannot stop. I have sounded the birth day of American independence. I rang out the return of peace in 1865. I have seen many Presidents inaugurated. I struck the hour of Lincoln's assassination. I have borne witness for Emancipation, Proclamation and Chicago fire and Charleston earthquake and epidemics of fever and cholera. Nations never stop. They march on towards salvation or demolation. And why should I stop? I am the clock for the national holidays. I toll for the mighty dead. I must go on. I must go on. Tick-tock! Tick-tock!"

A Mingling of Emotions.

What mingling of emotions in this closing year! That orange blossoms for the marriage altar, that funeral dirges for the tombs of the dead! Hosannas and lamentations in collision. Anthem and dead march mounting on the same ivory keys.

Brought in the New Year.

In olden times there was a style of closing an old year and opening a new one that was very suggestive. The family would sit up until 12 o'clock at night, and when the clock struck 12 the family would all go to bed. With the same measure step the time has kept since it started it will come to our door in the closing night of this week.

Expect a Greater Year.

And so I expect that 1893 will be a greater year than that of 1892. It will be a year of its own kind. Its obscurity will be its greatness. Its obscurity will be its greatness.

The Chiltern Hundreds.

The forced resignations of several members of Parliament recalls a curious method of procedure in connection with a member of Parliament in connection with a resignation of the ordinary way. To do so he must hold an office or position of honor under the crown. To overcome this difficulty an odd scheme was fixed upon about 150 years ago.

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A WAR OF WHEELMEN.

The National Military Cycling Company Has a Falling Out.

A NEW ORGANIZATION TO FOLLOW.

The Crusade for Good Country Roads to Be Kept Up With a Will.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ARE IN DEMAND

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Everything has not been smooth sailing in the Military Cycle Company, and a number of resignations have followed the trouble between the captain and the first lieutenant.

Angry words passed between some of the parties to the trouble, and more than a dozen members resigned.

Arrangements are now on foot for the organization of a new separate company, which will not come under the orders of the District National Guard. Lieutenants Libby and Sergeant Crook are interested in the new organization, and they hope to form a company with social features which will put them on a basis with other independent companies.

One of the most interesting volumes that has been published for some time, and one that is likely to have a wide circulation among wheelmen, is General Ordway's "Cycle Infantry Drill Regulations." It is the first volume of its kind ever published, notwithstanding the fact that the bicycle corps of the National Guard, where the need of such a work has long been felt.

Chief Consul Stinemetz presided at the meeting of the local division, League of American Wheelmen, called for the purpose of selecting representatives of this division at the annual meeting in Philadelphia, February 20. The delegates elected were Messrs. Overman, Perry, Atwood, Wheeler, called for the purpose of selecting representatives of this division at the annual meeting in Philadelphia, February 20.

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